



Highlights of the 30th Annual Meeting 1954

1954-55

COMMITTEE PROGRAM
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A co-operative is the only business that can give to patrons equitable service, reasonable charges and also the ownership of the business. None but co-operatives can offer patrons that ownership.

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SASKATCHEWAN WHEAT POOL,
REGINA, SASK.

HIGHLIGHTS

of the 30th Annual Meeting 1954

At a Wheat Pool meeting a short time ago, one of the ladies present asked why she and others were urged to buy and use Pool Flour. The lady was much impressed with the answer: "When you buy five pounds or one hundred pounds of Pool Flour you register your Faith in Co-operation."

Ideals and principles can be powerful when they are put into action. The idea of working together for the common good, the principle of service before profit, were once bold new ideas.

Co-operation is a way of life, and co-operatives are a way of business. The farmer who travels the co-operative road from farm to elevator understands this. He and his neighbors ask for no special privileges. They want only what is fair and just. Thirty years ago, they had Faith in self help—Faith to build a marketing method which would stop exploitation, give correct weights, accurate grades and dockage and fair prices.

It is stated in the 1st Annual Report, 1925 (page 7): "In developing the Pooling idea in Saskatchewan, the opinion has always been held that our greatest strength lies in the marketing of Western Canada's wheat crop through one single selling agency."

The Canadian Wheat Board is the result of that firmly held opinion and that objective.

Then there was the question of owning and operating country and terminal elevators and just how service could be provided at cost. In the co-operative handling of grain, loyalty and volume are principal factors.

Again quoting from the 1st Annual Report (page 6): "It is the opinion of the Board that these elevators should be operated on a non-profit basis."

What the Wheat Pool has accomplished or what it has to say about farm policy, however, large a business concern it may be, would have little importance were it not that the opinions and policies come from its members.

This Committee Program, "Highlights of the 30th Annual Meeting," outlines very briefly some of the outstanding points of the Annual Meeting of Delegates which was held in Regina, November 2nd to 12th.

Assets: Assets costing \$51,042,711.92 include: 1134 country elevators, bins and annexes with a total storage capacity of over seventy-six million bushels. Three large modern grain terminals at the Lakehead with a storage capacity of over twenty million bushels.

The Western Producer—a weekly newspaper providing a vital service to the farm community.

A province-wide co-operative livestock marketing service.

A flour mill and vegetable oil plant operated in the interest of co-operative producers and consumers.

Head Office building and other property of various kinds.

Investment of Members and Reserves The total of \$30,169,434.03 is made up as follows: Membership fees (\$1.00 per share)—\$141,227.00; Elevator deductions—\$16,072,616.06; Commercial Reserve—\$8,661,098.60; Livestock Credits—\$49,068.55; Reserves—\$5,245,423.82.

Revolving Members Equity Up to July 31st, 1954, Elevator Deductions and Commercial Reserves totalling \$14,403,729.35 were purchased and approved for transfer from estates of deceased members or from aged members who are no longer farming, to member-patrons who have delivered grain to Pool Elevators. In addition, the sum of \$1,822,812.50 has been provided from this year's earnings for transferring deductions.

New Members During the year, 6,108 new members each took out a share in the Pool. This compares with 6,612 shares issued in the previous year. Total membership—141,227.

Paid to Member-Patrons 1925-1954 Up to July 31, 1954, the sum of \$42,243,701.19 has been paid to shareholders in cash or credits since the Pool was organized (see Statement No. 4 in the 30th Annual Report).

In February, 1954, over 80,000 patronage refund cheques were mailed to member-patrons who delivered grain to Pool Elevators during the year ending July 31st, 1953.

The main point in farmers owning Pool elevator system is so the owners can ship their grain through their own elevators and provide this service at cost.

Country Organization In addition to looking after and promoting the general welfare of the Pool, the purpose in having a Country Organization, viz., delegates and committee men and fieldmen is to see to it that information and facts about their own Pool is made available to all Pool members.

The strength and usefulness of the Pool goes hand in hand with these two main purposes.

During the year under review, district representatives attended 2,948 meetings of all kinds with an estimated attendance of 143,335. Motion pictures were shown at 902 of these meetings. In addition, there were personal visits to 4,522 farmers, 2,113 businessmen and 3,493 Pool Elevator Agents.

A great deal of time was spent with growers, committee men and Pool Agents in explaining the rights of the grower as set out in the Canada Grain Act and facts about the use of the Car Order Book. **The right of the growers in this matter is highly important and a principle which must not be lost.**

A program of co-operative schools, citizenship days and rallies was continued during the year. Six one-week Co-operative schools were held with a total attendance of 470 young people, an increase of 130 over last year. The Co-operative Canteen is one of the effective and practical lessons of the school.

The fieldmen assisted the Extension Department of the University of Saskatchewan in promoting and organizing a Leadership Course and three six-weeks regional agricultural short courses under the Dominion-Provincial Youth Training Plan.

In addition to working in promoting sales of Pool Co-op Flour and helping committees and livestock shippers in organizing and assembling co-operative livestock shipments, the fieldmen carried on a general program of

organization and education work in close co-operation with Wheat Pool Directors, delegates, committee men and employees.

Wheat Pool Committees At July 31, 1954, there were 1,115 Wheat Pool Committees and of these, 1,092 were elected during the year. Head Office received and acknowledged minutes covering 5,990 local meetings and 125 committee conventions.

The sum of \$27,330.00 remuneration was paid on application to committees who reported holding four or more meetings.

Wheat Pool Committees are the source of much co-operative Strength and progress and are an important factor in building and tying together public opinion in matters affecting the marketing of farm products.

Committee Conventions One hundred and twenty-five conventions were held with an attendance of 7,226.

The reports of committee work during the year, presented by the secretary of each committee, together with a discussion of these reports, was a key item on the agenda at all conventions. The "discussion groups" were continued, with satisfactory participation on the part of committee men.

The work and recommendations of the convention were covered in Committee Program No. 6, "Highlights of the Committee Convention, 1954." The business operations of the Wheat Pool and the policy of the Organization were reviewed by the Conventions. The operations of the Canadian Wheat Board and the International Wheat Agreement were outlined by the Director and were endorsed at all Conventions.

Country and Terminal Elevators To meet the need for additional space, the storage capacity at Pool Elevators has been more than doubled since 1940.

By December this year the total country storage capacity will be over 76,400,000 bushels. Deliveries to Pool Elevators last season was 150,039,000 bushels; average per elevator 129,456 bushels. Pool Elevator shipments to Churchill amounted to 5,359,487 bushels or 46.89% of all grain shipped to that port this

year. Throughout the whole of the season, most of our elevators were badly congested and unable to receive all grain offered by shareholders. Part of the solution lies in a better distribution of cars. Surely the fair way of allocating cars to elevators is in accordance with the growers' own preference as to where he wants to deliver his grain.

Pool Terminals handled 84,699,885 bushels as compared to 114,304,101 bushels in the previous season. This equals 24.19% of all cars of grain unloaded at the Lakehead.

Surplus Earnings Surplus for the year ended 31st July, 1954, amounted to \$4,707,720.28. After providing \$485,000.00 for income tax; \$620,235.28 for Reserve Account, the balance of \$3,602,485.00 will be payable as a Patronage refund. The refund will total 27/16 cents per bushel made up as follows: 1 cent per bushel to be paid in cash; 11/4 cents will be used to purchase and transfer deductions and 3/16 cents will be retained by the company as loan capital and be set up to the credit of member-patrons. Included is 48,000.00 which will be placed to the credit of members who shipped or sold livestock through the Livestock Division.

Flour Mill The production this year was 480,523 barrels against 583,427 barrels last year. Flour sales amounted to 458,118 barrels. Domestic sales have improved, but export sales are down from last year. This situation simply reflects the decline in International trade in many materials and commodities.

Pool Flour has proved its worth both on the domestic and export markets. Wheat Pool members and customers appreciate the unconditional guarantee which accompanies this high quality product of the farmers' Flour Mill. A further increase in domestic sales is in the hands of the farmers and their families in Saskatchewan.

After paying all expenses of operations there was a net loss of \$4,636.12 compared to a surplus of \$42,710.37 last year.

Vegetable Oil Plant The plant operated 76 days on flax and 151 days on rapeseed, a total of 227 days operations this year as compared with 140 days' operations last year.

Sales of linseed oil to the domestic market totalled 2,871,136 pounds as compared with 2,080,982 pounds in the previous year. There were no export sales.

After providing for all operating costs the Vegetable Oil Plant for the year ended 31st July, 1954, showed a surplus of \$38,137.97.

It will be interesting to note that included in the above surplus is a net earning of \$8,292.68 from the operations of the new elevator which was opened for business on October 5th, 1953.

A total of 17,295,000 pounds of rapeseed was crushed on a customs basis.

Livestock Division The Livestock Division shows a net operating surplus for the year of \$76,672.83.

The Company owns and operates the livestock yards at Regina, North Battleford, Swift Current and Yorkton, and three livestock selling agencies at Moose Jaw, Prince Albert and Saskatoon. The three Pools are joint owners of Canadian Livestock Co-operative (Western) Limited, St. Boniface, Manitoba.

Total number of animals handled through co-operative channels; cattle and calves 202,777 (39.61%), hogs 123,280 (31.58%), sheep 15,584 (32.75%). The percentage of livestock marketed in public or co-operative yards through co-operative agencies materially strengthens market price structures. **The strength of market prices depends on the extent to which Packers and other buyers must enter public markets to obtain their supplies.**

This fact is often overlooked by many farmers and truckers who have livestock to sell.

During recent months, the decline and fluctuations in both beef and pork prices have been very disturbing to livestock producers.

It is clear that marketing methods must be improved to give more stability to the livestock industry in the interest of both producer and consumer. The delegates discussed many phases of this problem and passed resolutions having

to do with price support and livestock marketing methods.

Printing and Publishing Division

The Job Printing Department produced a surplus for the year, however, the cost of publishing The Western Producer is substantial. After paying all expenses of the combined division there was a net deficit of \$92,038.47.

The circulation of The Western Producer is 151,003 with 83,021 subscribers in Saskatchewan.

The Magazine section, along with the Women's and Youth pages and agriculture features have continued to appeal to farm readers.

The Western Producer continues to give strong support to farm programs and to express opinions on policies and practices which affect the well being of the farm families in Western Canada.

Conclusion

In 30 years, the farmer-members put in twenty-five million dollars in cash.

In 30 years, the farmer-members have bought and paid over fifty-one million dollars for elevators, annexes, cottages, terminals, Flour Mill, Vegetable Oil Plant, a modern printing plant and sundry equipment, all free of debt and owned by these same member-patrons. During the same time, they provided themselves with unequalled service and protection.

In the same 30 years they have received back in excess charges refund in cash or credits over forty-two million dollars.

While the Organization has been an outstanding success as a business, the greatest accomplishment of the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool cannot be found in the balance sheet, but in the lives of its farmer-members.

The farmer-members through their experience and team work, have learned much about the handling and marketing of grain, but more important is their learning of the power they hold when they join hands in a common cause.